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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

I.

THE CASE OF THE CHIRICAHUAS.

THE Apaches, as a nation, were conquered by General George Crook in a series of campaigns lasting from 1871 to 1875. The Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apaches were, however, excepted from his control. In 1876 the scattered bands of this tribe were united with the San Carlos and White Mountain Apaches on the San Carlos Reservation. Friction between these several tribes and other causes resulted, in 1881 and 1882, in the departure or "breaking-out" of the Chiricahuas, who fled to their ancient haunts in the wild Sierras of Old Mexico.

General Crook, who had been sent north in 1875 to quiet the Sioux, was hastily ordered back to Arizona, and in the remarkable campaign of 1883 the Chiricahuas, more than 500 in number, were returned to the reservation as prisoners.

In May, 1885, a party numbering 134 again returned to Mexico. An arduous campaign ensued, resulting in the surrender of the whole party to General Crook in March, 1886. Geronimo and thirty-five others escaped while returning to the United States, but in accordance with the terms of the surrender, Chihuahua and seventy-six others were sent as prisoners to Fort Marion, Florida.

The operations against the hostile remnant were then intrusted to General Miles. Hampered by his orders from Washington, his campaign was foredoomed to failure. This fact becoming evident, it was determined to effect by negotiation what had been found impossible to accomplish by force of arms. The idea was conceived of securing a reservation in the Indian Territory, where the peaceable Chiricahuas, then in Arizona, and the prisoners at Fort Marion could be united. It was hoped that the promise of reunion with their tribe on such a reservation would prove a sufficient bait to induce the hostiles to surrender. On July 13, 1886, Lieutenant Gatewood and two friendly Chiricahuas were despatched with a message to the hostiles, and about the same time a delegation of friendly Chiricahuas was sent to Washington with a view of procuring their consent to their removal. The authorities in Washington were, apparently, not in accord with the views of General Miles, and, after receiving a promise that so long as they remained peaceful their interests would be looked after, the Indians were started back to Arizona. This action did not suit General Miles, and he telegraphed that their return might cause trouble, and urged that, as the military reasons were sufficient and the opportunity was favorable, some arrangement be made by which the tribe could be located outside of Arizona and New Mexico. The delegation was, therefore, held as prisoners at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Governor of Arizona then prepared a proclamation, offering a reward of \$500 for the apprehension of Chatto, Loco, Kaetena, and several others of the delegation. The proclamation, though not issued, was not without its use. Chatto, the leading chief, was informed of its terms and was told that, if they returned to Arizona, the military would not protect them, but that they would be tried for acts done when on the war-path before the surrender to General Crook in 1883. At the

same time an alternative proposition was submitted to them. This was, practically, that they should have a reservation in the Indian Territory near Fort Sill, where "the clear waters of the mountains, the climate, and the fertile soil would be congenial and beneficial to them. . . . Each family should have \$100 worth of farming utensils and \$200 worth of domestic stock the first year, and \$300 worth of stock the second year." The whole tribe would be reunited, and some of them would serve as scouts, and would receive, some \$50, some \$20, a month.

To the Indian mind trial by the civil authorities meant simply being put to death by the whites. With such a threat hanging over them, there could be little doubt as to their decision. The alternative was accepted, and they agreed to go to the reservation so pleasantly described to them.

No authority, however, had been given to General Miles to make such an arrangement, wise as it doubtless was. He hoped perhaps for its subsequent approval by the War Department, but was informed that it was not possible at that time to procure the necessary legislation, and that all hope of doing so must be abandoned. He then urged the temporary removal of the Chiricahuas to New Mexico or Kansas, pending legislative action. To this General Sheridan replied that "the proposition to remove them to any reservation or military post west of the Missouri River cannot be entertained. The President wishes me to ask what you think of the proposition to forcibly arrest all on the reservation and send them to Fort Marion, Florida."

The hostiles had not yet surrendered, and the execution of such a scheme at that time would have proved fatal to General Miles's plans, and he replied that the objections were serious, as the Indians, having been sent to Washington to negotiate for removal to another reservation, "would consider it an act of bad faith"; and that "it would necessitate a war of extermination against those that are down in old Mexico, for *if banishment were the fate of those that have been peaceable*, they would expect theirs to be much worse, and I think all would have to be killed before any more would surrender."

Thus matters rested until August 24, when Lieutenant Gatewood succeeded in opening communication with the hostiles through the Chiricahua scouts, and General Miles's message was delivered to them. After discussing it more than two days, they decided to accept the terms offered them, and on September 6 Geronimo's band formally surrendered, with the understanding that no harm should come to them for their past offences, that they should join their tribe on a separate reservation, and that they should have farms and cattle of their own. The party, numbering fifteen men and seventeen women and children, were, however, sent to Fort Pickens, Florida.

The reasons for the removal of the peaceable Indians no longer existed, but the idea having once been suggested, the territorial press demanded its accomplishment. Originally a clever device to secure the surrender of the hostiles, and of importance only in that connection, the removal of the friendly Indians became a point insisted upon aside from any other consideration. It had been decreed that they could not be removed to any point in the west, and it was finally decided to send them to Florida, as the readiest means of disposing of them. Geronimo surrendered on September 6, and on the 20th of the same month 278 adult Indians and 103 children were received as prisoners at Fort Marion, where the delegation at Fort Leavenworth was sent to join them. In May, 1888, the whole tribe was united at Mount Vernon Barracks, Alabama, where it still remains.

Owing to change of climate, enforced idleness, and other causes, many have died. Up to November, 1889, the number of deaths was 119—a death-rate of nearly 25 per cent. in three years.

Of the whole tribe, Chihuahua's band alone was justly confined in Florida. The remainder, excepting Geronimo's band, were imprisoned without their consent and without just cause. General Miles says: "The assent of the band was given before they were really moved out of that country"; and Governor Wolfeley states that "they agreed to go east. So when they were sent east, it was under no false proposition." They consented to go to a reservation outside of Arizona: they never consented to confinement within the damp prison-walls of Fort Marion.

The whole number sent east in 1886 was 498. Of this number *less than twenty men were engaged in hostilities* during the whole of General Miles's campaign. For the sins of these few a sentence of banishment was visited upon the whole tribe. They were far from deserving it. On the contrary, General Miles refers to "their good conduct and loyalty." They had committed no crime against the government, but had done good work in its service. Many of them were scouts in General Crook's campaigns; some were retained in service by General Miles. In the records is found frequent mention of their gallantry and fortitude. They wore out the white troops in the field, and were pushed on alone far into the Sierra Madre, and under the gallant Crawford, rendered effective aid in securing the surrender in March, 1886. In the mountains, over desert plains, marching through mud and through shallow alkali lakes that blistered their feet and legs, and "so foot-sore that it was only with great pain that they could travel at all," these Chiricahuas were ever "the most subordinate, energetic, untiring, and by odds the most efficient" of the scouts. Honorably discharged from the military service, they returned to their reservation, where, one day, they were brought together "to be counted." They were surrounded by soldiers and other Apaches, and placed on a train, "ten car-loads of them." When they alighted, they were exiles and prisoners. Three hundred and eighty-one of them were confined in Fort Marion, where there was room for "seventy-five men, women, and children, in addition to those already there." They were placed on the same footing as the hostiles. Even the two scouts by whose aid the surrender of Geronimo was effected were imprisoned with the rest.

Thus, for the sake of less than twenty, a whole tribe of nearly 400 innocent people have been condemned to exile and imprisonment, which to many of them have meant death.

L. W. V. KENNON.

II.

STANLEY'S PYGMIES.

AMONG the many wonderful things Stanley has to reveal to us, the pygmies of the Aruwhimie forest are not the least, if we may judge by the hushed eagerness with which eight thousand people listened to the description he recently gave before the Geographical Society in the Albert Hall. True, he tells us little in his speeches, but what he tells us is enough to awaken the keenest curiosity to know more of what must be the most marvellous scene now existing in the world.

Over a country about half as large as France, covered with huge trees,—ten thousand million of them is Stanley's own calculation, and standing so thick that it is always twilight below their interwoven branches,—wandering in thousands, as they have wandered for ages, are to be found a race of light-brown men and women scarcely four feet high. Three thousand years ago, long before Herodotus, the father of history, was born, they retreated before larger races, as the Lapps, who are nearly as diminutive, retreated before the Norsemen, and in the course of centuries they have so fitted themselves to their surroundings that the dreary forest, where full light never falls, has become to them their world—their paradise—limitless and vast, and it is beyond their power to think of emerging from its protecting gloom. They know nothing beyond it, even of tradition; have no idea of even a moderate expanse of open country; have never seen grass growing in quantities, and have no conception of any land without dense forest. The only open spaces they know are the little patches that have been cleared by a larger race for the cultivation of bananas, which in that luxuriant climate reach maturity in twelve months, and of which these little people are very fond. This pygmy race know their forests as thoroughly as our Indians know theirs, and by an inherited instinct, marvellous to the white man, track their way by day or night through the wilderness with a certainty and celerity which make them, despite their insignificant stature, a formidable foe. They appear to sustain life, like some other savage tribes, on roots and wild fruit, and can tell exactly what is poisonous and what is edible; but their chief dainty is the banana, and their desire for this luxury draws them irre-